

Statutes

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Established Test,

3 James I. c. 4

In order to the Security of

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HIS MAJESTIES

Sacred Person,

AND

GOVERNMENT,

AND THE

Protestant Religion.

AGAINST

**The Malitious Attempts and Treason-
able Machinations of ROME.**

*Nemo sibi nascitur,
Partim Patria, &c.*

IMPRIMATUR
Jan. 3. 1679.

Geo. Thorp. R^{mo}. in C. P. & D.
Guilielm. Archiep. Cant.
à Sacris Domesticis.

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WHAT a Tempest should we have had, if this Black *Italian* Cloud had broken over our Heads? Never was *Hurricane* so double charged, with Death and Destruction: It would certainly have Rain'd Fire and Fagots, and all Instruments of Cruelty, upon the Innocent Heads of Poor *Protestants*. But *GOD* have the Praise, That we are in hopes to see it not only Blow over, but that the Storm is likely to fall upon the Heads that raised it. Some of these treacherous Dealers, who have dealt so very treacherously with us, are already *fallen into the Pit which they had digged for Others*, and are ensnared in the mischievous

The Established Test.

chievous Works of their own Hands; and it is to be hoped for the Rest, That *their violent dealing will fall upon their own Heads*; for He who is Truth it self, in whom we trust, whose we are, and whom we serve, has assured us, That *Wicked and Bloodthirsty Men, shall not live out half their Dayes*; for he who is the God of all Mercy, *abhors the cruel and deceitful Man*.

In a Concern of so common and universal Nearness, I cannot conceive any Person so little or inconsiderable in a *Nation*, but since he must participate and have a share in the common Happiness or Misfortunes that shall happen; he must also have a Right, if not a Duty, to endeavor to do what service he can to the *Publique*: Every Mans Oar may, and ought to be in the *Boat*, to preserve her from sinking; and though possibly I may value my endeavors in this little *Scrole*, as cheap as any can desire, yet the good Intention of it being the only thing that can give it a Recommendation, that may also procure it Pardon; and if it be demanded why I write? 'tis answered, Not to increase the Croud of *Pamphlets*, which at such Times fly about the *Streets* like Chaff before the Wind; so that one is obliged to take some Pains to find the Wheat; which some able and industrious Hands have winnowed from the Dross; but it is perfectly out of *Charity*, and for the Information of such who will not be at a greater Charge than such a *Trifle*. And therefore I do not pretend to Instruct the great Managers of the Affairs of *State*; or to meddle with the Needle and Compass of the *Publique Bottom*; 'tis dangerous meddling with the Helm of *State*, even sometimes for the

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Publique Pilots; I am no *Dictator* of *Politicks*, or Pretender to give *Unerring Rules* for our future Settlement, or present Security; but a Plain, Honest, Well-meaning *Englishman*, who heartily Honor my *Prince*, Love my *Church*, and Wish well to my fellow *Subjects*.

And to manifest that I am so, I will endeavor in short to shew to those of my own *Sphere*, the common Danger under which we lie, whilst we are infested with these concealed *Semenaries* and *Jesuites*; the probable Way to Detect and Discover them, notwithstanding their *Protean-Faculties* of Dissimulation, Perjury, and Putting on so many Shapes; and the great *Interest* that every Man has, to do his utmost, to clear the Nation of such Secret *Scorpions*, as Poyson both Mens Souls and Bodies.

It is in vain for us to hope to be free from *Earth-quakes* and *Convulsions* of *State* so long as these Men of *Tempestuous Principles* are continually making their *Fireworks* in our very *Intrals*; the *Papacy* is fitly resembled by the dreadful *Ætna*, or *Vesuvius*, which take Trace sometimes with the neighbouring Plains for many Years; but when the sulphurous Mass of their *Intrals*, is recruited, then do they break out in horrid *Flames*, to the terror of the Country round for many Leagues; which they ruine and cover with barren *Pamites* and *Ashes*; thus will the *Romanists* when one of their Plots is discovered and prevented, give us a little breathing; not out of any *Charity* to us, or *Remorse* in their own *Consciences*, but to make us more secure till another *Design* is ripe for *Execution*: We have often through

The Established Test.

Gods goodness escaped their treacherous *Mines*, even when they were ready to Play; but who is able to say, We shall always be saved by *Miracles*? if the *Red Sea* be divided for our sakes, we must walk through it; if we will escape to a Shoar of Safety, something we must do, and endeavor to promote our own Peace, Safety, and Security.

It cannot be doubted, but the *Roman Dragon* has been and ever will be industrious and vigilant to regain this *Hesperian Garden of England*, which in times past was wont to yield him such Plenty of *Golden Fruit*, that one of the Popes was used to say, That *England* was *Potens inexhaustus*, A Spring of *Treasure*, which could never be drawn dry; and if the *Italian Gulph*, which they Term the *Apostolick Chamber* could not do it, he had some reason to say as he did. We need not give our selves much pain, to trace this *Leviathan* the crooked-*Serpent*, in all his windings and turnings, by which he has endeavour'd, to wrap and embrace us again in his painted, but mortal *Folds*: There has past no *Princes* Reign since the Reformation, but what has been plagued with the pernicious *Counsels*, or mischeivous *Stratagems* of these Sons of *Matchiavel*: and they have all ways been endeavouring either by open *Cruelty*, or secret *Conspiracies*, to re-establish the *Roman Tyranny* among us.

To these inveterate Enemies of our *Peace*, were our *Ancestors* obliged for all the Treasons and the Wars of *Queen Elizabeths* Reign: *Catena*, who writ the Life of *Pope Pius the Fifth*, gives a full Narrative of the secret Counsels of that *Pope* and the *King*
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of *Spain*, and attributes all those consequent Troubles in *England* and *Ireland*, to the warm Zeal of that *Pope*, to restore us to the *Catholique Faith*. To these we owe, that most barbarous, hellish, and detestable Design of the *Gunpowder Treason*, in the beginning of *King James* his Reign over *England*.

But that upon which they had grounded so much confidence, and which they intended should be one deciding Blow for all, proving an Abortive *Monster*; and the long-fancied *Monarchy* of the *West*, to which the ambitious *Spaniard* had made so many years court in vain, coming to decline into a mighty *Nothing*; and that *Nation* having little left of all their aspiring Grasplings after *Empire*, besides the *Pride* that too commonly attends it; there was a necessity of changing the measures of their *Policy*.

For *Spain* being by the help of the *Inquisition*, the Cruelties of the Duke d' *Alva*, and the Assistance of the *English*, dismembred of so great a Strength as the seven *Maritime Provinces* of the *Neatherlands*; and the fatal *Eighty Eight* having clipt her Pinions of Power at Sea; *Portugal* revolting to the Family of *Braganza*; they judged, that even *Hope* of Assistance from so crazie, maimed, and disjointed a *Crown*, was a vain Impossibility. *France* was full of Civil Broils, occasioned by the Pretensions of the House of *Guise*, and the *Princes* of the Blood to the *Regency*, during the Minority of *Francis the Second*, and *Charles the Ninth*; and in danger of becoming totally *Hugonot*. it self, had not
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The Established Test.

the Bloody *Vespers* of St. *Bartholomew* in the Year 1572. by the *Parisian Massacre*, as they thought, let out the most dangerous and Feavourish *Protestant Blood* in the *Body*; and after that, had it not been rescued from that danger in the *Head*, by the more than *Roman*, the *Roman Catholique* courages of *Clement* and *Ravilliac*, by whose Assassinating Hands the Two *Henries*, the *Third* and *Fourth* fell; so that little hope of help was to be expected from that Quarter, to regain *England* to Obedience to the *Catholique Faith* of *Rome*. *Germany* was at too great a distance, and too much *Lutheran*, and composed of too many jarring and perpetually jealous *Interests*, to expect any Succour from *Ratisbonne*; nor was it well able to defend it self from the furious Shock of the Warlike *Gustavus* King of *Sweden*; who in probability had he lived any considerable time, would have made good the *Anagram* of his Name, and changed it to *Augustus*.

These Circumstances of Affairs, and the posture in which *Europe* then stood; obliged the Sots of limping *Loyola*, to put off the *Lions Skin*, and begin to play the *Fox*; and to try if *Art*, and *Artifice* would not repair what their unsuccessful *Treasons* and prosperous *Arms* had in vain attempted. And now the *After-game* they had to play for so great a *Stake*, was to be managed with their most refined Skill: from henceforward *Divide & Impera* must be the *Word*; the secret *Spring* that must move the mighty *Machine*, by which they were to compleat our overthrow. All their *Arts* were used to sow Dissentions, Sects, Schisms, Fears and Jealousies

sies among us; and by pretending a danger and fear of *Popery*, really to make the way easie to introduce it. The first crop which they reaped, and the early Earnest of their future *Harvest*, was the loss of the *Palatinate*, by which the *Protestant Interest* in *Germany* sustained a most dangerous Blow, and the *Catholique* received a considerable accession both of Power and *Profelytes*: for by this time, they had so infected *England* with Fears and Jealousies, that King *James* could not get a Parliament to part with a Penny of Money for the Relief of his Son-in-Law the *Electör*, unless he would pawn his *Crown* and Prerogative for it. Nor could his Successor King *Charles* do any thing towards Resetling that unfortunate Prince in his rightful *Inheritance*; nor in conclusion to preserve his own.

Flusht with this lucky *Hit*, and the succeeding loss of *Rochel*, they now resolve closely to follow the Blow, and pursue their point; and by making the *Popish* Party in *England* appear good and loyal Subjects, zealous for the *Crown*, and opposite to the *Factions* of the several *Seets*, they were resolved by this one *Artifice* to ruine the *Heretiques*, by their own Divisions: for by this means the *Papists* began to appear quiet and innocent, and not only so, but *Loyal* Subjects and Friends to the *Crown*: this they knew would disarm the Penal *Laws* in force against them, of their usual severity; and that would at once increase the number of their own *Profelytes*, and that of *Dissenters* too; and whilst many were recalled whom the fear of Persecution had staggered from the *Romish Religion*, the *Indulgence* which was

The Established Test.

was shewn them, gave such Apprehensions and Alarms of the growth and fear of *Popery*, that it augmented the number of Dissenters, and gave a colourable pretext to the *Factions* and *Disloyal* among them to manage their *Designs* with the greater facility.

For this unmerited Clemency of our *Princes*, naturally tender of the Lives and Fortunes of their Subjects, so long as they saw no appearance from them, but of Innocence, Kindness and Loyalty; they constantly perverted to this ingrateful use, secretly to instil a *Jealousie* into the Minds of their *Protestant* Subjects, of their dis-affection to the *Protestant Religion*: insinuating that the Suspension of the Penal Laws in force against *Roman Catholics*, was the effect of the Princes inclination to *Popery*. Now the *Court* was certainly making a tack towards the Coast of *Italy*, and it would not be long before they came to an Anchor in *Tyber*: for what could make it more clear and manifest, than the Kindness, as well as Indulgence which was shewn to those of that *Perswasion*? This deadly Poison, thus sweetned and guilded over, went down with the Querulous and Credulous Multitude of dissenting *Protestants*, and was not a little forwarded by those *Factions* and Discontented Promoters of the late *Rebellion*, as the most serviceable Engine, to batter down both the *Crown* and the *Church*. What unconceivable pleasure was it now for these concealed *Romanists*, to stand behind the *Scene*, and prompt both Parties, to Act the bloody *Tragedy* which they had composed? Without all doubt,
this

The Established Test.

9

this intoxicating *Jéalousie*, made great Numbers of innocent and undeserving Persons stagger into the other *Extream*; and the extraordinary fears and cry of Popery, drive Men so far from that, that at last by the violence of the increasing Storm, they threw over-board all their *Loyalty*, and in a manner all *Religion*.

Had not that great Man *Archbishop Laud*, been one of the *Jonahs* that was first heaved over the Decks to allay the *Tempest*, we had certainly had then a full discovery of the whole Design; as most fully appears by the Letters now lately Printed of Sir *William Boswell*, the *English* Ambassador in *Holland*; to the *Archbishop*, *Andrew ab Habernfeilder*, the *Archbishops* to the King, and his Majesties Answer; together with a particular of the whole Design of the *Papists*, who are therein by Name mentioned, to ruine the *King* and *Archbishop*, and with them the *Church* and *State* by Civil Wars, which were begun by their contrivance in *Scotland*. But it was too much the Interest both of the *Papists* and *Rebels*, to suppress those Papers, and the further discovery of those Designs by his hasty death; for had he lived to compleat the Discovery, all the After-game of both Parties, had been counter-plotted; and though possibly the *Rebels* knew nothing of the Design till after his death, and that his Papers fell into their hands; yet, then they were too far imbarqued in the *Civil Wars*, to sound a Retreat; and to proclaim themselves Murderers, for taking away the *Archbishop* as a *Papist*, whose Innocence would thereby have been fully vindicated,

The grand
Design of
the *Papists*
in the
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King *Charles*
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The Established Test.

and their Guilt made notorious, to the ruine of all their *Esteem* with the People, and the utter confusion of their Ambitious Design of *Sovereignty*, and erecting a *Commonwealth* upon the Ruines of the *Monarchy*.

So that nothing can be more clear and evident than this; That from the subtil Practices of the *Jesuites*, those Diversities in *Opinion*, and Differences in Practice among Protestants, received their Encouragement, if not, their *Rise* and *Original*: and while every new *Self* pretended still to out-do others in the Purity of *Reformation*, and a further escape from the Superstition of the *Romish Babylon*, they were all made Instrumental to undo the Protestant Religion; and a thorough *Reformation* became the Apple of Contention between the Prince and the People: the *King* was accused of favouring Popery, and designing to introduce it; and with it, *Arbitrary Tyranny*, the Natural Child of that *Religion*, because he would not comply with the Zealous Fury of some Popular Spirits, to throw down the *Hierarchy* of the Church; which is one of the Fundamental Pillars of our Government. The other by their disobedience to the known and Established Laws of *Church* and *State*, became guilty of Disloyalty, and were not without just cause suspected of Dangerous and Treasonable Designs against the *Royal* Person and Government, which they did endeavour to conceal under the specious pretences, and taking shews of *Zeal* against Popery, and eager forwardness to promote the pretended *Reformation*.

Thus

The Established Test.

11

Thus did these subtle Foxes, like *Sampsons*, while their Heads lookt several ways, carry those Fire-brands between their Tails, with which they set us all at last into a Flame; continually fanning with their pestilent Breath, those Jealousies and mutual Animosities, between the *Sovereign* and his *Subjects*, till they had reduced three of the most potent and flourishing Kingdoms in *Europe* into Ashes, and had fill'd us with Blood and Confusion. Thus far they had succeeded in their *Enterprise*, that they had absolutely ruin'd the *Monarchy*, and pull'd down the old *Cathedral*, without Establishing, or so much as ever intending, so far as any body could conjecture, any *Church* at all; and while in Policy they tolerated all *Religions*, they fairly opened a way for us to have none at all; and which was the thing the *Jesuites* aimed at, to work us from our own Divisions to destroy one another, and at last, either by Force or Policy, to reduce us to the *Unity* of the *Roman Church*: And doubtless they were in hopes in a little time to have accomplished this great *Design*; when unexpected Providence, what by the Peoples general weariness of the *Tyranny* of those many Governments, and by the *Loyalty* of the *Remainders* of the *Church of England*, whom no Cruelty nor Oppression could remove from their firm Principles of *Allegiance*; brought back with the general *Joy* of the People, their long *Desire*, our Bannish'd *Sovereign*, Restoring Him miraculously to a Peaceful *Throne*; and with Him, Restoring to these Languishing *Nations* their Antient Government and Laws, their long-wanted Liberty, and *Religion*.

The Established Test.

Now were the *Roman Conspirators* at a loss again, seeing their hopes defeated, and their expectations gone; and therefore encouraged by former Successes and Experience, they begun to play their old Lessons over again; and we had scarcely taken breath after our violent *Revolutions*, when they began again to trouble our calm *Waters*, that so they might fish with more advantage: But by the *Loyalty* of the Parliament, and Vigilance of the *Ministers of State*, that being like to prove a Work of too long time for Men of so much impatience; and though they had made so great a progress as to raise some Disorders in *Scotland*, for which two of them were under the disguise of *Presbyterians* executed there; yet the generality of the *English* were too sensible of the goodness of their present *Condition*, and sufficiently instructed in the *Calamities* of a late *Civil War*, to enter into a second; and above all, this great *City* manifesting upon all occasions great Testimonies of their *Loyalty* and Fidelity to His *Majesty* and the Government, they were forced upon new and more precipitate *Counsels*.

How they have managed their *Affairs*, and with what cruelty they had laid their Designs, is by the Goodness of God already in a great measure, and it is to be hoped will be fully discovered; it was in short a Design against His *Majesties* Sacred Person, and the Government, our Laws, Lives, Liberties, and the Protestant Religion; a Design as universally laid, as it was to have been tragically executed: The present Race of our *Kings*, were either to have been wholly extirpated, or become vile
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Tributaries to the *Triple Mitre*. One would think it impossible that such barbarous and savage Actions should proceed from any of *Human Race*; or that there would be found any, who have so far lost the Native Generosity of *Englishmen*, which in the Times of the *Papal Monarchy*, durst bid defiance to his Encroachments, as to prostitute the *Imperial Crown* of these Realms to Vassallage and Slavery.

A stolen smile will part from me, to think how all this while these Purblind *Conspirators* could not see how short an Enjoyment they, and their great Three Crown'd *Master*, must have had of the bloody Spoils of *England*. There is a certain great Neighbor of theirs, who has told a Pope, That he does not value his * *Holiness* at a Farthing; and who would certainly have made the Moral of old *Æsop's* Fable good upon them; the *Lion*, *Fox*, and *Bear*, had made a Hunting Match; the *Fox* and *Bear*, Subtilty and Cruelty took the *Prey*; but the *Lyon*, as most powerful, challenged it wholly for himself, and had it without a Murmur from his fellow Hunters, who were glad at that rate to compound with his armed Paws, for the security of their own Skins.

I cannot believe, but that the whole *World* will entertain this discovery with *Horror*; and though the *Jesuits* will with the greatest *Effrontery* deny, or mitigate it, yet certainly their *Religion* will receive the Blow which they intended for ours: for who that is not resolved to quit *Humanity* it self, can believe that *Religion* to be true, which isto be propagated with Treasons, Murders of the most *Purple-dye*, violation.

* Witness the Column erected at Rome in disgrace of the Pope, for a Petty Affront offered to his Ambassador there.

violation of all that is Sacred in Human Society, Law, Justice, Equity, the most Solemn *Oaths*, Promises, and Covenants? Who can believe the Pope the Successor of St. *Peter* in Faith and Doctrine, when he shall under his most Authentique Hand and Seal, Absolve the Subjects of any Prince from their Natural, Civil, and Religious *Allegiance* to their Lawful *Sovereign*; when he shall grant Pardons to whosoever shall Murder him, and dispence with all the *Oaths* that have been, or can be taken, to secure the *Royal Person*, or the Government by Law established? *Nero* that Monster of *Nature*, from whom he claims a Succession at least of Practice, set *Rome* on fire, slew his Friends, made Cruelty his diversion, and became a *Parricide* out of Curiosity, Ripping up his Mothers Belly, that he might see the Nest that had brought that *Viper* into the *World*. *Flaming London* is a witness that the second *Rome* can equal, if not exceed the First; and the Pope scorns to come behind *Nero*, since he can Command, Authorize, and Pardon the Murder of those who are the common Parents of our Country; and more than that, who wear the Sacred *Character* of the *Eternal Majesty*, being *Gods* to Men, though but Men to *GOD*.

How *God Almighty* does and will resent this Affront and Indignity put upon him by this Usurpation upon *Heaven* and *Earth*, is in some measure visible already; and 'tisto be hoped, will yet be more; to the Shame and Confusion of such pretended *Catholic Religion*, but real *Atheism*, and most Diabolical *Impiety*; and how far the rest of the Crown-
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ed Heads of *Europe*, will by this example become sensible of their own danger, and the common injury herein offered to all the *Royal Masters* of the *Universe* I cannot tell, but *Cum proximus Ardet Ualegon*; When their Neighbors House is threatned to be fired over his Head, it is time for them to look about them: No Prince can live in security, so long as there is Poison, Pistol, or Ponyard in the hands of such Desperadoes, as not valuing their own, are, for the Interest of the *Catholick Religion*, Masters of other Mens Lives; so long as the Pope may for *Herésie* Arraign, Condemn, Excommunicate, Depose, and Deprive Sovereign *Kings* in the *Consistory*, and Arm both their own, and the Subjects of Foreign *Nations* against them; gives his Benediction, with Rewards and Promises both of Heaven and Earth, to take away the lives of the *Heirs*, that so he may seize upon the Inheritance; and so long as he challenges to himself the boundless *Prerogative* of being the Sole and *Supreme Judge* of what is *Herésie*, and by virtue of that Power, may define whatsoever is contrary to his Grandeur and *Interest*, to be that damnable and *Capital Sin*.

But this is not our Concern, our Neighbors may do as they shall please themselves, and Nurse this *Mitre* till it shall devour the *Crown*; we have something nearer home to employ our thoughts, considerations, and most industrious endeavors upon; and with that *Charity* which begins at home, to take care how we may secure our selves.

That all Degrees, Ranks and Conditions of Men, are possessed with a real detestation and abhorrence
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of such a villanous design, there can be no reason to make a doubt; their own *Interest* will oblige them to it; had the Net of this great *Roman Fisherman* been drawn up upon us, all had been Fish that had come to the Net, all would have been involved in the common Calamity; for had the *Mischief* been formed into perfect *Monster*, had it come to its growth and strength, all Sorts and Degrees of Men, without difference or distinction, who would not have abandoned the *Protestant Religion*, and submitted to the *Roman Toak*, must have fallen as Sacrifices if not to their Religion, yet to that Policy which necessarily attends Cruelty and Usurpation, the *Deities* which now the *Romans* worship. Nor could these ambitious *Zealots*, have ever believed their unjust Dominion sufficiently secured from the danger of future *Relapses*, but by the intire destruction of all those, whom they could not trust, or might either suspect, or fear, & by seizing their Estates, to enable themselves with Force and *Arbitrary Power* and *Tyranny* to take away the Liberties and Opportunities of opposing them, from such as they must permit to survive the general *Massacre*; that so they might be out of fear from those whom they intended to make, and treat like *Slaves*.

Had the *Royal Oak* fallen under their treacherous designs, what favour or mercy, could either the lofty *Cedars*, or the humble Shrubs and Plebeians of the Wood have expected from their hands? They who were grown so hardened in *Mischief*, to attempt first upon the *Scepter*, would never in their *Consciences* have scrupled at the *Sheephook*: They
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who could not blush to shed the Blood of the Sovereign, would never have disputed to let out whole Rivers of the Subjects.

If this had been the *Project* of a few Zealous *Recluses*, or managed by the hot Brains of some *Shaven Heads*; or had it been the undertaking of some few Discontented *Laicks*, there might have been some colour of excuse for the *Religion* in general, there being ill Men of all *Religions*, and even among those who profess the Truest: When there were but Twelve *Apostles*, one of them was a *Devil*, a *Traitor*, and covetous *Murderer*: But when He, who styles himself the *Vicar of Christ*, the Successor of *St. Peter* and *St. Paul*, the *Infallible Head* of the *Catholique Church*, who cannot Err from the *True Faith*, the *Supreme Judge* of Controversies, the *Keeper* of the *Keys* of Heaven and Earth, Hell and Purgatory, when he shall be the *Principal Instigator*, *Promoter* and *Encourager* of *Murder*, *Usurpation*, *Treason*, and *Rebellion*, sure no Man can believe, but that either the *Faith of Rome* is not the *Catholique Faith*, or that the *Church of Rome*, if this be her *Faith*, is no true part of the *Catholique Church*. For if we may *Judge* of the Tree by the Fruits, such horrid and infamous Practices, seem to make the *Pope* appear, the Successor of *Iscaiot*, who betray'd his *Master* to be Crucified, rather than of *St. Peter*, who was himself Crucified for Planting and Propagating the *Faith of Christ* by Rules of Meekness, Tenderness, Love to all Men, and particular obedience to Kings as *Supreme*, and to *Magistrates* as Gods Vicegerents and Ministers of Justice upon Earth; and indeed,

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The Established Test.

whoever shall consider these Actions of the *Pope* and the *Jesuits*, will think them to be expected only from the fierce *Cannibals* of the *West Indies*, who have neither *Morality*, *Law*, nor *Religion*; and not from those who stile themselves the *Pillar and Ground of Truth*, the only Professors of the true Faith and Religion.

It is certainly therefore the interest of every Man who is not a *Papist*, and I doubt not the wishes and desires of all Men, to be secured from the attempts of such inhumane and cruel Men, who would make no more difficulty to cut the Throat of a *Heretique Protestant*, than to dash out the Brains of a *Mad Dog*; and above all the rest of *England*, it is the more particular concern of this great and populous City of *London* to be secured from them: Her present *Glory* may be a sad Testimony of their infamous Treachery, and hellish Malice; Her Beauty is raised upon those Ashes to which they had reduced her, one of them confessed and died for it; and in which we have reason to think they designed to bury her for ever: the damp that he put upon her in her present Trade, which is deservedly the general complaint, is from their Practices; and that insecurity in which we live to fall into the hands of these meretricious Dissimulators, makes Mens lives uneasie, their Sleeps unquiet, and their nights tedious, and both expensive, beyond the proportion of their present Trade; whilst they are obliged by such strong and constant Guards, to purchase their security at the expence of their *Mind*, *Time* and *Health*.
That His Most Sacred Majesty, and the Honourable

able Houses of Parliament are Assiduous and Intent, both to discover and punish the Authors of these Treasons and Mischiefs, is obvious to all Men; that they will take all the care that mortal Men can do, both to secure us for the present, and establish us for the future upon the best Foundations of a lasting Safety, no person can doubt: But when they have done their part to the utmost; when they have wound up their Justice and their Counsels to the highest pitch of Wisdom; when they have made the Fence of the Laws impregnable in all appearance; yet unless every Subject in his Place, will contribute something towards the common Security, these pernicious Foxes will either lurk undiscover'd among us, or creep through and escape the hands of Justice, though it pursue them never so closely.

For if we can suppose the strongest Bonds of Oaths of Allegiance, Supremacy, Tests, Abrenunciations, Declarations, or what Human Wisdom can devise; let the words be as plain and perspicuous as the Beams of Day; let all the care imaginable be taken to obviate them in their Equivocations, Mental Reservations and Evasions; let them declare that they believe that the Pope has no Power to Absolve them; or that such Oaths are not null and void from the beginning, because there was not *Bona fides ab initio*: All this will not be sufficient; for the most Criminal among the Papists will be the least scrupulous of any Oath that shall be tendered to them; nor will think this Perjury, or if it be, will they therefore decline it, so long as they are before-hand armed

The Established Test.

with an *Antidote* from *Rome*, which can expel all the Poison and the danger of such *Oaths*, and not only so, but render them meritorious, as being part of the Persecution which they suffer from *Heretiques*, in defence of the *Catholique Religion*; and they who fear the *Pope* more than *God*, and believe that he has power to remit all Sins of this *Nature*, if they esteem them Sins, will think themselves secure from the stroke of *Divine Vengeance* due to perjured Heads; and which is all they have to look too, they imagine themselves hereby sure to escape the danger and severity of *Human Laws*.

And thus eluding the Tryal and Discrimination of an *Oath*, they will securely enjoy their Lives and Liberties, and remain *Masters* of all the Opportunities of still contriving, and managing their mischievous *Counsels*, and *Treasonable Attempts*: For this we are to assure our selves, that so long as they can escape the danger of punishment, they will never give over the Enterprize. And though *God Almighty* may not permit them to run to the full extent of their *Malice*, which terminates in nothing short of our utter *Ruine*, the Subversion of the Government, and Extirpation of the very Name and *Religion* of the Protestants; yet will they give us many Disturbances as to our Peace and Quiet; and be able to do us many private Mischiefs, both at home and abroad: for they are a Generation of Men too learnedly *malicious*, and too well acquainted with the *Italian Genius* of *Matchiavel*, and *Cesar Borgia*, not to be able to do us all possible Injuries; and they are too inveterate not to be feared at all times;

times ; but more especially when they either flatter us, or seem asleep, and not to regard us. *Manet alia mente repostum* ; The hatred and animosity which they bear us, is successive and eternal ; the Quarrel is *Immortal*, and made an *Intail* like that of *Hannibals* against *Rome* ; the old rigid *Carthaginian* his Father swore him before the *Altars* of his Country Gods, that he should be *perpetuus Romani nominis Osor* ; and to espouse an *Eternal* hatred of the very *Roman Name* ; nor need we much doubt but they have taken the same *Oath* before their *Altars*, to hate the *Name* of *Protestant*. Not all the Clemency, Indulgence, or Humanity that can be shewn them, is capable of taming this bequeathed *Fierceness* against us ; and let poor *Protestants* treat them with all the *Christian* meekness, temper, and compassion, as becomes the noble profession of their innocent and Heavenly *Religion* ; they will upon the first opportunity, repay them with the blackest ingratitude, and most incompassionate *Cruelty* ; two Crimes, which cannot be outdone by all the Vices of *Nature* and of *Hell*.

That these men have been the great *Masters* who have improved all our *Dissentions*, few judicious and observing *People* have for many years doubted ; and it is now apparent from the Voluntary Confession, of those who have had sufficient Reason to know, and whoever Considers how much it was their *Interest* to dash us one against another and so to break us in pieces ; and what large advantages they have made of our mutual *discords* ; to what Extremities by this single *Artifice* they had reduced us ; while
with

Mr. Oats and
Mr. Bedow.

The Established Test.

with our own Swords, we did all we could, and almost all they could desire of us to undo ourselves, and ruine both the *Reputation* and *Protestant Cause* it self; I say, whoever will bring these things together, will be easily induced to believe, that they have been the prime *Actors* in, as well as contrivers of our *Divisions*. Thus did we give them opportunity to enter among us with security; and while, as the late dying *Archbishop Laud* in his Speech upon the *Scaffold* prophetically observed, the Cry of *Veniunt Romani* the *Romans* are coming in upon us, went among a *Credulous* and abused *People*, these very *Romans* whom we so much feared, under other names came in reality upon us, and had almost taken away our Place, &c. *Nation*. Thus did we furnish them with *Convenience* and *Arguments* to gain *Profelytes* to their boasted *Unity*, while they in return, furnished us with mutual *Animosities*, *Jealousies*, and *Arms* to destroy our selves.

Nor is this the onely fruit which they have already reaped, and do hope still to reap from those *Seeds of Discord* which they have sown, and so industriously cultivated among us: Here likewise they post themselves as in a *wood*, and lie in *Ambuscade*, ready to annoy us; and in the mean time remain secure from being attacked themselves, or so much as known or discovered; and being able to transform themselves into any shape, like *Highwaymen* who have committed *Murder* and *Robbery*, 'tis but turning the Coat and changing the *Pernque*, and they face and laugh at the *Hue and Cry* which does pursue them.

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How dangerous their Company is in this Town, several tragical *Examples* have lately convinced us; nor can we be secure from Fire, Sword, and Poison, so long as these Mortal *Enemies* Lodge within us. Now it is morally impossible, and they know it, and for that very purpose have been so very industrious to promote our *divisions*, I say it is impossible so long as those continue, either to discover them, or get quit of them; since when they find themselves closely hunted by the Laws, they will undoubtedly *Herd* with some *Set* or other and so Escape.

His Majesty by his *Proclamation* has commanded all *Papists* who are not Householders, Travellers, &c. to depart from this his *Imperial City*; but who believes that there are not great numbers of them, and *Jesuits* and *Priests* especially still in Town? and in probability, those who are most guilty, and most desperate: for here in the Crowd they think themselves secure, which they could not hope to be in the Country, where the *Jealous peasants*, not acquainted with any but their fellow *Cottagers*, are all in an uproar at the sight of a strange face, and read *Firebals* and *Treason* in his very *Countenance*; and therefore will not fail to carry him before his *Worship* the next *Justice* of the Peace; and the *Justice* for his own security is bound to secure such persons as appear suspicious, unless they can give a very good account of themselves. Whereas here in Town, a *Priest* or *Jesuit* takes a Lodging at a *Quakers*, can thou and thee, and yes and nay, as well as the best of them; goes to the *Silent meeting* with his

The Established Test.

his *Landlord*, and it may be upon occasion, if the *Spirit moves*, he can disgorge himself against the Priests of *Baal*, the Hirelings; the burden of *Tithes*, the uselessness of *humane Learning*, he can talk of the *light* within him, and the witness of God, and vilify the *Scriptures* as a dead and carnal Letter; and such *Common-places* of discourse as are grateful to the People; and so he passes for one of their *Friends*.

Our *Jesuit incognito* passing thus under the Masque of a *Settary*, the *Constables* of the *Parish*, as is their duty, and pursuant to the publick *Orders* for the *Common security*, come to my Neighbour the *Quakers* to know what *Lodgers* he has in his house; he straight informs them such a person, and gives in the false name by which he goes; they inquire what he is? he tells them he is one of their *Friends* who has lodged there so long; the *Officers* it may be only in *drollery* tell him they suspect he is a *Priest* of the *Roman Church*; Nay verily that he is sure he is not, for he hates the *Beast* and the *Scarlet Whore*; he has heard him say so, in the Meeting. Well! the *Lodger* himself, it may be if within, is so confident as to face the *Officers*, who tell him he must take the *Oath* of *Obedience*; Nay, replies he, *Friends*, I cannot swear, the light within me witnesses to the truth, which says, *Swear not at all*, but let your *Yea* be *Yea*, and *Nay* *Nay*, and begins an *Harangue* against all *Oaths*. The *Officers* imposed upon as well as the Good man of the House, by the fineness of the *stratagem*, leave him, onely entring his borrowed name in the List, without suspicion

suspicion that he is a *Papist*, and much less, a *Priest* or *Jesuit*. Thus does he scape *Scot-free*, and is at liberty; and when in a place remote from his *quarter*, he *rendezvous* with his fellow adventurers in *Masquerade*, they laugh at all the *World*; and in despite of all *Laws* and the strictest search, as if they had King *Gyges* his enchanted Ring, they walk invisible and secure; and want neither freedom, nor opportunity, to contrive, carry on, and execute their horrible designs, of firing our *City*; assassinating such as are active in opposing them; endangering as much as ever the *Royal Person*, the Government, and *Religion*.

I do not particularize in this *Sett*, as the onely shelter or secure harbor for these *Popish Conspirators*, though it may be, their esteeming all *Oaths* unlawful, their deriding and disusing the holy *Sacrament* of the *Lords Supper*, their Contempt of the *Scripture*, their state of perfection in this life, and several other of their *Tenets*, so agreeable to the *Romish Doctrines* and designs, qualifie them more then many others to be deceived by the *Jesuits*, and are more proper to afford them shelter and security.

Not that this will excuse any other *Sects* from the same danger; and I see no reason why we should not suspect, that several stickling *Itinerant Teachers*, who travel as *Apostles* among the *Independents*, *Anabaptists*, &c. may not as well be *Jesuits* under these disguises, as those two Executed in *Scotland*, who went under the Notion and Character of *Presbyterians*; who yet, as Mr. *Oats* has deposed, had their Commissions to Preach *Sedition* and *Rebellion*, from

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The Established Test.

the Rector of the *English Colledge of Jesuits at Doway*, and he from the *Pope*.

There is no question but a *Jesuit* can put on any dress of *Religion*, to serve the Interest of the *Catholique Cause*, and will not scruple to take up the patronage even of the *good old Cause*, and appear an eager *Separatist* in any shape, the better to accommodate himself with a Capacity of promoting our *Ruine* by our dissentions and divisions: this gives him a certain opportunity to unhinge people from their *Allegiance* to the *Crown* and Obedience to the *Established Order* and Government of the *Church*, the two *butts* against which he levels all the arrows of his poisoned *quiver*: and all the while he seems so fierce against *Popery*, and Ceremonies, he gains one point more of the *Compass* by which he *sails*, which is to pass undiscovered, and under that disguise to help to blow up the *Casks* of misunderstandings, Jealousies, and Animosities, between the *King* and his Subjects; with which at last he hopes to set them into a blaze, and to warm his own hands at the fire which shall consume them.

And to further this design, it is to be known that a *Jesuit* can be of any quality, Trade or profession, a *Gentleman*, a Merchant, a Lawyer, a Solicitor, a what you please: for the *Romish Janizaries* are the tribute Children of all *Europe*, of the most pregnant *Genius* and universal Capacity that can be gleaned up in any Schools; and these besides their Learning in which they are trained up suitably to their Inclinations, are also instructed in all such arts, as may accomplish them, and render them agreeable in
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conversation to all sorts of people; and in order to their being serviceable to their Concealment. Who would have believed Mr Price, Steward to my Lord Marquess of Worcester to have been such an eminent Jesuit, as to merit the Character of one of the most ingenious and wisest men in orders in the World? in all companies he passed for an ingenious man and a *Virtuoso*, and I have heard a worthy Gentleman and famous Lawyer say, he thought he was one of the ablest Solicitors in England; but he, as well as others were, I dare be confident far from suspecting him to be what he is now charged with, or the wise man upon whom the *Conspirators* so much relied for his Counsels and Conduct of their late *Hellish Conjuraton*? and in such a crowd of people of all sorts as inhabit this Spacious City, and overgrown Suburbs, how easie a thing is it for great numbers of them to settle themselves as Inhabitants, especially the *secular Jesuits*, who apply themselves to Civil affairs, as *Factors* and *Merchants* Trading to Foreign parts? and how impossible is it to discover them to be what they are, detestable *Conspirators* who maintain a secret Correspondence with all Courts of the *Roman Religion* to our prejudice, and principally with the Court of Rome, so long as they publicly own themselves to be of some sect or other, and pass under the Characters of *Presbyterians*, *Independants*, *Anabaptists*, or any thing but of the Church of England: for that is their mortal hatred; that, is what they do above all things covet to destroy; as being the frontier and Bastion of the Protestant Religion: and could they intirely ruine

that, which is the thing they labor for night and day, with all the application imaginable, *velis & remis*, tooth and nail, and for the accomplishment of which great work they transform themselves into these various disguises, they make themselves secure of the Rest; whom they would play at one another, till they worried and devour themselves; and at last, fall an easie Conquest to the *Roman Mitre*.

Whoever he was that writ that discovery made to the late *King* and *Archbishop Laud*, he assures us that of the four Orders, of Ecclesiasticks, Politicks, Seculars, and Intelligencers, scarcely all *Italy*, *Spain*, and *France*, afforded so great a number of *Jesuits*, as the City of *London* then did, and that there were more than fifty *Scottish Jesuits* then, who had conspired against the King and Government, by raising a *Civil War* among us: and we have no reason to believe that their numbers are lessened, when their conveniencies are increased. Under these disguises they do more effectually carry on their wicked designs of keeping up and increasing our disorders and divisions; for it is the close *Cabal* that does the mischief, and poisons the Common people of any Sect with principles of disloyalty and faction; when they are under the *Rose* then do they vomit out all they can to enrage people against the Government both in Church and State: whereas the publick discourses of most dissenters, either out of Ingenuity or fear of punishment, are managed with more *Caution*, and less violence.

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I am not so vain as to believe, that these *Truths* or at least dangerous probabilities should gain intire *Credit* even with those whom they do so nearly concern; I am but too sensible that the impressions which some men have received into their minds, are so firmly rivetted into their *belief*, that they will not be perswaded to abandon them, though that be the only probable way to establish their own, and the Common safety and security of our *Nation*, one may almost with the same ease remove *Black-heath*, as perswade some people that they are secretly managed by *Romish Priests and Jesuits*; that they are accessory to the dangers of introducing *Popery*; or that they secure them from discovery, and that punishment which in the opinion of all men they have justly merited.

But certainly they who wish well to their *Native Country*; to the publick peace and security of the *Nation*; to their own lives, Liberty, Property, or *Posterity*; if they will act according to the natural principle of self-preservation, or the *D dictates* either of Law, Reason, or Religion, must do it these two ways.

Either first, they must contribute all they can actively, towards the discovery of these dangerous *Conspirators*; by all lawful ways and means.

Or secondly, if that comes not within their power or knowledge to effect, they must do all they can not to obstruct their discovery, or be accessory to their Concealment; and they ought with the same *Caution* to avoid the sheltring, or even unwilling securing of them from the hands of *Justice*, as they

The Established Test.

they would avoid the Common mischiefs, dangers, and Calamities, which they and the whole Nation, may fear from them, or suffer for want of such a discovery.

Now how willing soever any people may be to pursue at once their *duty* and great *Interest*, by the first, yet in regard it will be difficult, hazzardous, and uncertain how they shall succeed; and the notorious cunning and dissimulation of these *Malefactors* protecting them, not only from *vulgar* discovery, but many times from the most *Critical*, and piercing Eyes of the wisest *Statesmen*; there can therefore be nothing left for all true and honest *Englishmen* and real *Protestants*, but to clear themselves; and by such a *Touchstone* as will certainly distinguish, the *Papist* and *Jesuit* from the *Protestant*, to vindicate themselves and discover the other.

It may be some persons will think me very *Confident* in offering such a *Shibboleth* as may certainly detect these *Ephraimites*, if all *Protestants* would make use of it: but I am not solicitous what any persons may think: if it be such an easy *Expedient* as will do the work, so effectually, that the *Evils* of our *Peace*, *Religion*, and *Country*, cannot avoid being discovered by it; and if it be such a *Method* as all true *Protestants* may and ought to make use of; it will be the opinion of the best and wisest men, and that is only valuable, that they who refuse such a *Test* and way of *Trial*, must, either be *Accomplices* and *Confederates* with *Papists* and *Jesuits*; or however accessory to all the *Mischief*s which may happen, by their obstructing and frustrating such a *Discovery*.

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It has before been intimated, and is notoriously observable by all people, how they do, and may elude all *Oaths* which may be offer'd them as a way of discrimination; for the greatest *Criminals*, having the greatest concern to lie conceal'd, will not scruple in their extreme danger and necessity, any or all the *Oaths* that can be framed or offer'd them to take: and being before hand arm'd by dispensations and pardons from their *Omnipotent Pope*, they will consult their own safety and the good of the *Catholick Cause*, without fear of swearing, or forswearing themselves; so that such *Oaths* will prove but *Cobwebs* to take the lesser Flies; while the *Wasps* and *Hornets* who carry the *sting* and the *poison* will break through them and escape.

Nay, possibly, they would not scruple to joyn with us in our *Publick Service* and *Solemn Worship*, which as much as some people account *Papist* and *Superstitious*, the *Papists* do detest and abhor; Nor would they refuse to hear Sermons in our *Churches*; though so long as there are so many *Meetings* of several *sects* they will be secured from those hardships too: for it is but joyning themselves to some of those of the *Separation*, and they both avoid that way of *Trial*, and are more able successfully to prosecute their great design of overthrowing the *Established Government* both *Civil* and *Ecclesiastical*.

But that which they abhor, and esteem so damnable and deadly a *sin* as cannot be capable of any *Dispensation*, *Pardon*, or *Indulgence*, is to *Communicate* with *Protestants*, whom they believe and esteem

The Established Test.

steem the greatest *Hereticks*; that ever were in the *World*; both in respect of their disowning *Transubstantiation*, and because we are all under the *Popes* Curse and *Censure of Excommunication*. This is that which will in all probability distinguish the *Papist* and *Jesuit* from the true *Protestant*; for whatever they may be allowed to do to secure themselves in other particulars, they will never, so far as we yet know, be compelled by us, or allowed by their *Superiors* to partake with us in the *Holy Sacrament* of the *Lords Supper*.

I do not speak this to oppose any way of *Publick* proceedings against them by *Oaths* or *Tests* declaring their believing that there is no *Transubstantiation* of the *Elements* of *Bread* and *Wine* at or after the *Consecration* of them in the *Lords Supper*, &c. if their *Consciences* can swallow and digest *Perjury*, much good may it do them; I am assured it can do us no injury, but will certainly render them obnoxious to that *Vengeance* which must and will infallibly fall upon perjur'd heads, and how sudden or severe that will be, let them look to it, for it nearly concerns them, whatever they may think. What I offer, is only in a private way, and to private persons, that they, in their sphere may be assistant to the *Publick Ministers of Justice*, and of *State* in the discovery of these dangerous and cunning sort of Men; and thereby contributing what lies in our power, to our own particular and the general security of his *Most Sacred Majesty* (whom God long preserve !) the *Government*, our *Lives*, *Liberties*, *Laws*, *properties*, *Religion*, and
Posterity

Posterity, from the outrages, violences, treasons and *Conspiracies* of these our inveterate and mortal *Enemies*.

And certainly would all people be perswaded to be *Unanimous* in this duty of coming three times at the least in every Year to celebrate and publickly receive the *Holy Sacrament* of the *Lords Supper*; and an account taken of all such as refuse and absent themselves; it would be impossible upon strict enquiry into their manner of life and other Circumstances, and especially tendering it to them on some *Lords day* next after such their *Examination*, that they should escape being discovered.

One would think, that the proposal, were so rational so easie and so *Religious*, that none but the very *Criminals* themselves, or their *Accessories* and *Confederates* should refuse this way of *Trial* and discrimination; nor is it possible for any impartial person to consider and deliberate of it, but he must in his *Judgment* accuse such as shall refuse it, as manifest favourers of *Papists* and *Jesuits*. The *Law* Esteems all such as aid, conceal, and comfort *Traitors*, or protect them from discovery, to be *Traitors* themselves: and though they may plead for themselves that they do not know them that are such, and that may free them from the Penalties and danger of the *Laws* of Men; yet this *Ignorance* being perfectly voluntary, and proceeding from their wilful neglect of the way and means they had to detect them, it will not excuse any persons *in foro Conscientie*, before God and their own *Consciences*, from being guilty, not only of the *Murders* and
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mischiefs that have already happen'd, but of whatsoever may or shall happen hereafter, for or by reason of their escaping undiscovered: the true *Maxim*, *qui non prohibet cum potest, jubet*, will infallibly lie against them at the great day of accounts: He who has a possibility of preventing a *Mischief*, and either neglects or refuses to do it, most certainly in the sight of God the Righteous *Judg*, is guilty of it.

I cannot tell what arguments to make choise of, in such a Crowd of them as come thronging into my mind, to persuade people to be willing and ready to perform a *duty* they owe to God and Man, in order to the securing our *Peace* and *Religion*, in their private Capacities, as well as the Government is, to do all that can be done or devised in order to it: but however in short I will offer these following, as to me appearing most pressing and considerable: and if any other person can suggest more or more proper *Motives* it will become them, considering the present necessity, in charity to themselves and the *Publick* to offer them to the view and consideration of the people of these *Nations*.

First therefore I heartily wish that all people would consider with themselves, that what I offer is no *Innovation*; here is nothing proposed to them or imposed on them, but what the wisdom of our *Ancestors*, and of King *James*, esteemed one of the wisest *Princes* in the *World*, with the advice of his *Parliament* thought fit to pass into a *Law*; and I hope that very *Name* will oblige people to believe they owe a *duty* of obedience to it: all the difference

rence seems to be this, that when that *Statute* was made, all *Protestants* in general received the *holy Sacrament*, and onely the *Papists* were they who refused to do it; whereas now it is to be feared through the industry of the *Jesuits* among us, many who call themselves *Protestants* will refuse it as well as *Papists*: however to shew the duty and the advantage of it, especially were it a little accommodated to our present *Circumstances*, and because it does not lie in the way of every person to consult the *Statute* at large, I will faithfully set down so much of it as concerns our present *Case* and purpose:

Forasmuch as it is found by daily Experience that many his Majesties Subjects, that adhere in their hearts to the Popish Religion, by the Infection drawn from thence, and by the wicked and devillish counsel of Jesuits, Seminaries, and other like persons, dangerous to the Church and State, are so far perverted in the point of their loyalty and due Allegiance unto the Kings Majesty, and the Crown of England, as they are ready to entertain and execute any treasonable Conspiracies and practises, as evidently appears by that more then barbarous and horrible attempt to have blown up with Gunpowder the King, Queen, Prince, Lords and Commons in the House of Parliament assembled, sending to the utter subversion of the whole State, lately undertaken by the Instigation of Jesuits and Seminaries, and in advancement of their Religion, by their Schollars taught and instructed by them to that purpose, which attempt by the only goodness of Almighty God was discovered and defeated: and

Tertio Jacobi cap. 4. An Act for the better discovering and repressing Popish Reculants.

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whereas divers persons* popishly affected do nevertheless to cover and hide their false hearts and with more safety to attend the opportunities to execute their mischievous designs, repair sometimes to Church, to avoid the Penalty of the Laws in that behalf provided.

For the better discovery therefore of such persons, and their evil affections to the Kings Majesty and the State of this Realm, to the end that being known their evil purposes may be better prevented, Be it enacted by the Kings most excellent Majesty, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and the Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That every popish Recusant convicted or hereafter to be convicted, which heretofore hath conformed him or her self, or which shall hereafter conform him or her self, and repair to the Church, and continue there during the time of Divine Service, according to the Laws and Statutes in that behalf made and provided shall within the first Year next after the end of this Session of Parliament, or within the first year after that he or she shall after this Session of Parliament so conform him or her self and repair to the Church as aforesaid, and after the first Year, once in every Year at the least, receive the blessed Sacrament of the Lords Supper in the Church of that parish where he or she shall most usually abide, or be within the said Year, wherein by the true meaning of this Statue he or she ought to receive.

And if there be no such parish Church, then in the Church next adjoyning to the place of his or her most usual abode. The forfeiture for the first year twenty

ty pounds, for the second Year *forty pounds*, and for every Year after *threescore pounds*. And the *Officers* are therein by rewards incouraged to present the Monthly absence of all *Recusants* from the Church; and for default of performing their duty are to be fined, as in the *Statute* more largely appears.

Were this *Statute* with a little variation fitted for our *Circumstances*, and duly put in *Execution*, it would be impossible but that all *Recusants* must in a small time be detected; and by consequence those dangerous *Jesuits* and *Seminaries*, whose whole design is to contrive, plot and execute, their horrible *Treasons* against both Church and State: and unless people can be brought to comply with their own *Interest* as well as *duty*, the Excellent *Method* of that *Law* will be wholly impracticable; and it will be impossible to effect or attain the end, for which it was so wisely intended: for so long as such numbers of people who call themselves *Protestants*, shall wilfully absent themselves from their Parish Churches, under the shew of *Religion*; and by their *Example* so many who have no *Religion* at all, but perfectly out of *Idleness*, *looseness* and *debauchery*, shall stay at home, or do worse abroad; these *Traitors* and *Conspirators* will expect and find *Security*, by pretending to be *dissenters*: and so long as there are so many who never regard any *Laws* of God or Men, *Civil* or *Ecclesiastical* which enjoin them to receive the *Sacrament* of the *Lords Supper*, these will also pass undiscovered among the throng: for
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The Established Test.

it is all one to a *Jesuit*, whether he pass for a *separatist*, *Libertine*, or *Atheist*, so long as he believes himself a good *Catholique*; and so long as thereby he has the opportunity of concealment, and thereby to prosecute the main *Affair* of propagating the *Popish* interest and *Religion*, by the Ruine of *Protestants* and *Protestant Religion*.

And therefore, in the second place, I wish that all people would seriously reflect with themselves at whose door the guilt will lie if by their means mischief either publick or private overtake us? If the glorious *Light* of the *Gospel*, the *Lamp* of *Eternal Truth* should come to be extinguished by the Superstitious darkness of *Rome*; if by the Subversion of *England*, the whole *Protestant Cause* should suffer and be ruin'd, as in all probability, if that *Bulwark* were blown up, it must; or however suffer a *persecution* as Sharp and cruel, as all those *ten* of the *Primitive ages* put together; the *Pagans* being nothing so ingenious and wittily Cruel as the *Jesuits*: if *Millions* of *souls* should by a false *Religion* come to perish *Everlastingly*: if our *streets* and *fields* should blush with the blood of *Massacred Protestants*, our houses be reduced to ashes, and our miserable posterity, with such as should survive the *Common Rage* and desolation, should be made and sold for bondslaves: certainly there must be a strict account given to *Almighty God* by whose default all this came to pass? he gives us the means of securing our selves and if we neglect, the fault and guilt will be wholly theirs who do obstruct it; our blood will be upon their heads
who

who hear the *Trumpet* and see the *Sword* coming and are so far from taking or giving the *All-arm*, that they joyn with ours and their own *Enemies*, if they be not secret *Papists*, and put a *Sword* into their hands to slay us: when *God to whom vengeance belongs, shall make Inquisition for blood he will not forget the cry of the poor*; he will not forget those who have been the occasions, no more then those who were the *Authors of cruelty*; and how it is possible for those who obstruct the discovery of *Popish Priests and Jesuits*, not to be in the sight of *God* and men guilty of all the *Miseries and mischiefs* which may be occasioned by their concealment, I must protest my self to be utterly ignorant.

If there can be found any persons so incredulous as not to be apprehensive of these dangers from them, and who may that way think to evade the necessity that lies upon them to contribute their utmost towards this *Discovery*: I will in short endeavour to convince them from Former *Examples*. Let the horrible *Massacre* in *France* be remembered, in which according to the Relation even of *Popish Historians*, there perished near a hundred thousand *Protestants* of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions: among which, twenty *Lords* of Eminency, twelve hundred *Gentlemen*, persons of great Condition in the City of *Paris*, besides what fell in other places: The subtle Contrivance and deep dissimulation with which it was managed, and the Exquisite and ingenious *Cruelty* with which it was Executed, may sufficiently Instruct us, what we are to trust to, from such *Murderers*, as glory in what is

The Established Test.

is the shame and reproach of *humane Nature*, and render the most propitious and merciful *Divinity*, a cruel and sanguinary *Being*, while they pretend to please and do him acceptable service by such bloody *sacrifices*, as even *heathens* generally by the light of mere nature thought he abhorred: and who encourage one another in mischief, as if the *Heavenly Paradise*, were an *Aceldama*, and to be purchac'd with the price of blood: making such actions of horror and Cruelty as even exceed belief, meritorious performances capable to enrol them in the *Catalogue* of their *Calender Saints*: though we know none shall ascend the *holy Hill*, but they who have clean hands as well as a pure heart.

If this were not sufficient to convince us at the expence of our *neighbours*, that which comes nearer to us, is the Rebellion and *Massacre* of the *English Protestants* in *Ireland*; the fatal *Flambean*, which kindled our *English* Flames; the Cruelties which were then exercised are beyond Expression and belief, three hundred thousand souls perished by most cruel deaths, according to computation, and *God* onely knows how many more, who could never be brought into account: and both in this and the *Parisian Massacre* how many of those who escaped the barbarous *Rage* of these merciless Butchers, perished afterwards with cold, hunger, nakedness, and all the hardships that attend the miserable *Condition* to which they were exposed? Whither to fly they knew not, but generally to the Woods and Forrests, nor there, how to supply the necessities of *Nature*, having nothing left them
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but their lives, and no way of securing those long from the importunities of *Cold*, and *Famine*; thus did they languish out a few miserable hours till faint and weary, they became a prey to the *Wolves*, or fell into the paws of the *Tories*, the less merciful beasts of the two. How many mournful and desolate *Widows*, how many distressed and miserable *Orphans* were then exposed to all the miseries of life, before they knew what it was to live, and compelled to suffer all Extremities before they had done good or evil? Oh *Injustice* and uncomiserating *Cruelty*! Oh more then brutish *Inhumanity*!

And if the *Romish Religion*, command, encourage and reward such execrable barbarity, to be exercised upon the *Innocent*, what kind of *Revenge* can we imagine will they not invent for those, who dare oppose them? what torments, what lingring and retail deaths would they think enough for such grand *Heretiques* as have slain their *Apostles*, whom they have employed to convert us to the *Catholique Faith*? *Suetonius* reports of *Tiberius Caesar*, one of the *Popes* predecessors in the *Roman* throne, that he was a person so extraordinary cruel, that when a condemned person made it his importunate request that he might be dispatched quickly, he gave him this bitter *Sarcasm* in answer, *Nondum tecum redii in gratiam*, No Sir, by your favour, you and I are not yet come to be such good friends. Certainly not onely *Romulus*, but *Rome* her self, her *Kings*, *Emperors* and *Popes* have been nursed by *Wolves*; for sure the breasts

of any thing that has humane shape, must instill sentiments more tender and compassionate.

There is not the most guilty head, that shall suffer deserved Death for this Execrable Conspiracy, but will be esteemed a Saint and Martyr in the Romish Church. Their great St. Thomas of Canterbury, so famous for his Shrine and Miracles, and the infamous Prayers made to him, as a Rival of the Son of God, who was by the account we have of Him in our History, as ungrateful a Rebel to his Prince as can be imagined, may abundantly satisfy us in that particular; and if ever they come to reckon with us for such precious blood, it may be easily conjectur'd, at what rate we must pay for those Canonizations: let us be assured that a thousand fold would not be look'd upon as a Compensation for the lives of such, as though we justly think Monsters, they believe to be Miracles of men while they lived, and would persuade their blind Potaries, that their very shrines can do Miracles after their Death. The Pope and his Ministers of Cruelty will never be so far reconciled to any Protestants that shall come within their power as to let them die at once; but would be as gracious to them as Caligula another Heathen Pope or Emperor was to such as by his Tyranny were condemned to die; and that as the Historian relates was, that he was us'd to command them to be so executed as so *sentient* mark. He would not have them lose their lives by *Laager de marin* and a slight of hand, but they must die by inches, and be sensible of every slow degree of approaching death.

What

What pen can describe the terrible distresses of uncommon deaths which would be invented for us? What tongue is able to express its ghastly shapes, and the new fashion'd garments of Cruelty, or the rage of prevailing Popery? What heart can think of them, and of suffering them without the extremest horror? If death in his mildest and most natural appearance be so dreadful, as to deserve the title of *the most terrible of all Terribles*, what must he be when he is accompanied with all the Inventions of Tyranny? Who that saw them, or that heard the sad Relation, can remember London in her raging Flames without astonishment? who can think upon her dismal Ruines and ashes without amazement? how did all faces gather blackness? how were they pained? what tremblings of heart at the flying Rumors of a Massacre then intended? What horror, Confusion and astonishment would lay hold upon us, if we should see our Enemies break in upon us like an overflowing fire; a fire devouring before them, and behind them a flame burning; the land as the Garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness? and no possibility of Escaping, but they who fled from the fire must fall upon the glittering Sword; they who escaped the drawn sword, must perish by Famine: and is it possible there should be any persons who will not contribute all they can to prevent these, which are not only imaginary, but real dangers?

Can it be look'd upon as a thing so indifferent, that people should run all these hazards, that a

whole *Nation* should lie at Stake and perish, rather than they will abate a foolish *scruple*, or a rigid *opinion* to preserve them; rather than go to the places dedicated to the service of *God* and receive the *holy Sacrament*, thereby to declare their own *Innocence*, and detect the *Authors* of our danger, the *Enemies* of our Peace and Safety? Sure it is much easier to kneel at the *holy Table*, out of *Reverence*, not *adoration*, of the Bread and Wine; then to have the choice either to kneel and adore a *Consecrated Wafer*, or to kneel at a Stake in *Smithfield*? Is it not far better to wash our hands in innocence, and offer unto *God* the sacrifice of thanksgiving; then to be guilty of the blood of so many as should suffer by our being accessory to the accomplishment of the Traiterous designs of the *Jesuits*; and Sacrifice a *Nation* and many succeeding generations, many people of other *Nations* to the *Romish* cruelty, meerly out of obstinacy to our own prejudices, and it may be *Fancies*, which these very *Jesuits* and *Seminaries* have put in our heads? Certainly all those who would not be thought, and in the Eye of the Law Esteemed *Recusants* and *Papists*, ought not to make the least scruple to use this or any other lawful and necessary expedient, that shall by the publick *Wisdom* be thought necessary for our common preservation: Nor will it be satisfactory that they shall in words disown the *Church of Rome*, and declaim against it, or disavow all *Confederacy* or *Complotting* with the *Papists*: the arrantest *Jesuit* in *England* will do this upon occasion, to save his own life and en-
danger

danger ours: and if they hinder the building up of the Walls of our *Jerusalem*, what does it signify how much they either say they do, or hate the *Church of Rome*, since whether they conspire with the *Papists*, or not, if they assist them in accomplishing their intended *Design* of Ruining the *Protestant Religion*, it is the same thing? only with this difference, that what the one party does with *Design*, the other does with their *folly*.

And though men should not value their *Estates*, *Lives*, or *Liberties*, which some people seem willing to part with, rather then assist the *Government*, manifest their own innocency and detect the guilty, by endeavouring to promote the *Common Security*; yet one would think that which they call their *Religion* and *Conscience*, should oblige them to submit to this or any other way of *Trial* and discrimination: they may hope for *indulgence* from *Protestants* though of differing *opinions*, but they must not hope for the least crums of *Indulgence* or favour from *Papists*; not all the services they have done them will be remembered with the least gratitude or tenderness; no consideration of tender *Consciences* is able to soften those hearts who are more obdurate then *Marble* and *Adamant*, and as *Charles the Ninth of France*, in whose Reign the *Massacre of Paris* was executed, said to the Prince of *Condé*, *Mass*, *Death*, or the *Bastile*, so would they say to all *Protestants*, whether *Dissenters* or others, *Turn*, or *burn*. For unless they be secret *Papists*, which no body can tell
but

but they are, if they will not submit to a way of Trial, and unless they resolve to be open and professed ones, upon the first opportunity; they cannot expect any favour or Clemency from prevailing Popery; it is a stream so rapid and violent, that it drowns all that will not swim down the furious torrent; and should that inundation break our banks, all Protestants must either make Shipwreck of their Lives and Fortunes, or of their Faith and a good Conscience, for they would verify their rule to a letter, *Extra Ecclesiam nulla salus*. No safety in any sense is with them to be found, expected, or so much as hoped for, out of the Ark of their Church. For though the Church of England, as that which stands the main pillar of Truth, be what they chiefly hate, and endeavour to ruine; yet in the fall thereof they would certainly crush all other Pretenders to Reformation of what names or distinctions soever.

In extraordinary Cases of such impendent danger, people do not use to be so critically scrupulous, whatever they may be at other times; but every mans fear is his own Pope, and can grant dispensations for matters of greater scruple than this can be: if any persons can think themselves secure, or out of danger, not onely at this time, but at all times, so long as England is infested with such Wolves and Tygers, it must be such people as either have no Religion, and so care not what is uppermost, but like empty clouds can ride upon any wind, and change into any form; or such

as desire the *Romish Religion* may again prevail and be established in these *Nations*; or else such as are not sensible that the *Doctrines* and *Practice* of that *Church* teach and authorize, *Sedition*, *Rebellion*, *Murder*, and the utter extirpation of all *Heretiques*, by all or any ways or methods whatsoever.

To convince people of this, there is nothing more clear and evident, not onely from the *Writings* of private *Doctors* among them, but from several *Bulls* of former *Popes*, and from the *Decrees* of their *Councils*, which would be too long here to insert, and are already notoriously known to all learned men; and for those who want either opportunity or ability to peruse their *Writings*, they may read enough in the *Bloody Rubrics* of their *Actions* to convince them of the reality as well as greatness of their danger, nor need they seek for *Foreign Examples*, who will not credit those before given; our own *Country*, and this *City* Renowned over all the habitable *World*, will afford the most unlettered *People* instances more then enough, both of former times, and yet fresh and bleeding date; *Smithfield* will never forget the cruel *Bonfires* of *Queen Maries* short life and Reign; and what treatment our *Fathers* were to have received from the *Invincible Armada* of *Eighty Eight*, had it proved more then an *unlucky boast*, the whips, chains, shackles, knives, daggers, and other *Instruments* of cruelty with which, and *Savage Butchers* that *Nees* made the *Ocean* groan, are certainly able to
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The Established Test.

instruct the dullest, or the weakest *capacities*. Nor are the *Jesuits* grown more mild or gentle by the frequent disappointments, which our merciful and gracious *God* has in compassion to us given them; but rather more furious and exasperated: and since Heaven refuses to favour their *Treasons*, they have made a Covenant with *Hell*, and an agreement with *Death* to take their part. I will not repeat the confident, and beyond all former things audacious *Murthers*, which they have committed, even since the discovery of their intended *Conspiracy*; there is not a child in the Streets but can give a *Narrative* of the *Tragedy*: so unrelenting and incorrigible are they even when the *Rod of God* is upon them, and so blinded with the *rage* of cruelty and revenge, that they will not see that the hand of *God* is gone out against them; and what would they do then, should *God* permit them to ride in triumph over our heads? certainly their *proud waters* would have gone even over our soul, they would have swallowed us up quick when they were so wrathfully displeased at us. And whenever the bottom of this dark design shall be opened; when these chambers of *Death* and habitations of *Cruelty* shall be exposed to the light of the *Sun*, which it is to be hoped a little time will do; the whole *World* shall be witness, that there is little reason to doubt a syllable of what I have written.

There is but one thing more which at present
I would propose to the *Consideration* of People,
and

and especially those of this *City*, which is justly celebrated as the most noble *Emporium* or *Mart* of the *World*.

That our greatness, strength and power, our Riches and trade, and in a word, the well-being plenty and prosperity, as well as the Peace of our *Nation*, does in the greatest measure depend upon our *Maritime strength*, there will not be found any who can deny. That this strength at *Sea*, depends upon the encouragement and support of *Traffick* and *Navigation* will likewise be agreed on all hands. That it is therefore and ought to be the design of every good Subject and *Citizen* as well as it is of the *King* and *Government*, to promote these, will by an undeniable *Consequence* follow from these premises.

How invidiously all our *Neighbours*, especially those of the *Roman Religion*, look upon this great power of our *Nation* at *Sea*; and how ingrateful that *Universal Traffique* which we maintain throughout the *World* is to them, is easily to be observed by their endeavouring to come in with us for a *share*: they know little of the affairs of *France*, who do not take notice how industrious that *Monarch* and his great *Ministers of State*, and particularly *Monsieur Colbert* are, to encourage and extend the arms of their *Foreign Trade*, and to discourage all besides the *Natives of France*, and how *Considerable* within this few years they have made themselves in comparison of former times;

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The Established Test.

and whoever shall view the Ports of *Toulon*, *Marseilles*, *Brest*, *Rochele*, &c. And see them proud with their stately Castles of Wood, heretofore strangers to the Tydes of *France*: whoso shall withal reflect upon the actions of *Tobago* in the *West-Indies*, and *Palermo* in *Sicily*, where the *Heer de Ruyter*, who had saved *Holland* from the power of *England* fell under the rising Arms of *France*: he that will bring these propositions together, shall be able to draw a *Demonstrative conclusion* from them, that *France*, will in a few Years struggle hard for the *Dominion* and *Sovercignty* of the *Seas*.

Nor will they make any *Scruple*, if *Interest* did not animate them to it, upon the account, or at least the pretence of *Religion*, to disturb and weaken us *Heretiques*, in our *Trade*, and *Navigation*, especially in the *Levant*, where by the *Commonwealths* of their *Ports*, they will have all the advantages to do it; and if once they come not to dread our power, or be able to grapple with us in the *Streights*, and make themselves Masters of that important place of strength and situation *Tangier*, they will either totally exclude us if they can, or however come in with us for the greatest share of the *Commerce* of the *Mediterranean*; and if they shall gain their point so far, as to cut off one *Link* of our *Trafique*, our *Navigation* and by consequence our *Power at Sea*, will by degrees decline apace: and what we lose, they will certainly gain; and if they arrive to that degree, to ride

The Established Test.

51

ride *Admirals* of the Ocean, of necessity we shall be permitted only to truckle under them, and shall have just so much trade, as we steal, or they are not able to manage.

Now the most probable way that can be proposed to ruine our *Traffique* and *Navigation*, and thereby to secure and increase their own; is to discourage Foreign *Merchants*, and oblige them to withdraw their *Effects*, and to starve ours for want of Trade: for by this means they will in a few Years be able to give new *Laws* of * *Oleron* to the Seas. The ready way to Effect this, is to keep us in continual broyles among our selves: for what a damp must it of necessity give to all *Merchants*, both *English* and *Foreigners* to be in such an insecure Condition, that they must have not onely the hazards and damages of *Winds* and *Seas*, *Rocks* and *Pirats* to venture upon, but that they must be every moment in fear of suffering Shipwrack on the shoar? The *Change* I doubt not is sufficiently sensible of this truth at present; and if one sees a full morning *Change*, it is more to barter news, then to drive bargains; and that trade brings in no *Customs* to the *Crown*, nor *Riches* to the *Nation*; and so long as we cannot be secure, but that by the treachery of these *Jesuits* and *Seminaries*, our *City* may again be reduced to ashes, our persons secretly murdered, that we know not who to trust, nay the *Royal Person* and *Government* destroyed in a moment, and mens *Estates* given to the ravage of the *Murderers*, what encouragement can *Merchants*

* An Island in France, where the first Maritime Laws were made.

have to trade? so long as there are so many poisonous *Spiders* laying their cunning nets and *toyles* to take and destroy them: what courage can the Innocent and industrious *Bees* have to gather Honey for the *Common Hive*?

Besides it is worth our *Consideration*, how defenceless so great an *Island* as this is, and how liable to Foreign Invasions, and Depredations, if either their own Shipping and *Naval* power decays, or does not exceed or at least equal that of our *Neighbours*: and should any of them grow so potent at *Sea*, as either out of *Ambition*, or *Zeal* to propagate the *Catholique Religion* to attempt an invasion upon us; how dangerous is it to have a *party* within ready to joyn with them, to compleat a *Conquest* upon our Ruine?

Assuredly, so long as there are so many *Seminaries* and *Jesuits* among us, they will constantly be gaining *Profelytes* among us to their own *Church*, and making factions and divisions in ours: whereas were we clear of them, we might hope in time the number of *Papists* would decrease, and certainly many of the more simple and innocent *Parapists*, startled with the blackness of this horrid *treason*, or for fear of the penal *Laws*, will return to their *Allegiance* and *duty*; and many more would, if they were not buoy'd up by the imaginary dangers with which their *Priests* affright them, or encouraged by the meritoriousness of that obstinacy, in which they do all they can to confirm them:

them: But so long as the *Romish* party can by our Divisions shelter their *Priests* from discovery and the just punishment of the *Laws*, they will not only be confirmed in their pertinacy, but they will be always ready to receive such impressions of *disloyalty* from them, and upon occasion to throw off, not only all duty and *Allegiance* to their *Sovereign*; but all morality, and even *humanity* it self, in defence, and for the promoting of the *Catholique Interest*: and so long as we have so many sorts of *Protestant Dissenters*, who will not submit to any certain way of Discovering who are *Jesuits*, and who are not; we must certainly be contented, whether we will or no, to have these *Amorites* and *Jebusites* in our Land, as *Goads in our sides, and thorns in our Eyes*: we must sit down with our fears and dangers, and only have the feeble power to know and lament our *misery*, but not to help it.

To conclude, If either our Lives, our Liberties, our *Religion*, our *Interest*, our *Duty* or our Danger, the *glory* of our *Nation*, or the natural affection we owe to our *Posterity*, have any power or *Influence* upon the people of these *Nations*, to be unanimous in detecting the *Authors* of our present fears, or future apprehensions; they all call aloud upon every man, to use all lawful ways and means to clear themselves from the dreadful *guilt* of being *Accessories* and *Confederates* to our own, and the ruine of the *Reformed Apostolick* and truly *Christian Religion*; and if nothing of all this will move the hearts of men to *compassionate* themselves, God have compassion.

The Established Test.

passion upon us! And if we must suffer, permit
 us to fall into his hands, for his mercies are great;
 let us not fall into the hands of Men, and of all
 Mankind, not into the hands of these Wicked
 and Blood-thirsty Men, whose Tender Mercies are
 Cruelty it self.

Exurgat Deus, dissipentur inimici.



FINIS.





